

Appl. No. 09/576,366

Response dated November 14, 2003

Response to Final Office Action Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2171

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11, 12, 16, 18 and 22-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mazzamuto (USP 5,665,953). Claims 4, 10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazzamuto in view of Levitsky (USP 6,466,948). Claims 5, 6, 13-15, and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazzamuto in view of Shustorovich (USP 5,912,986).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejections and allowance of all pending claims.


Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the telephone interview with the Examiner held on November 13, 2003. During the telephone interview, Applicants' representative described the manner in which the presently claimed invention distinguishes over the cited prior art references. In response, the Examiner acknowledged the allowability of all pending claims over the cited prior art references. As such, all pending claims are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Ko-Fang Chang
Reg. No. 50,829

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400 / Fax: 415-576-0300
KC/ka/mmb

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